

Appl. No. 10/670,090  
Prelim. Amdt. dated Apr. 23, 2004

### REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the specification to include a claim that was previously canceled. In a Preliminary Amendment filed on September 24, 2003, Applicants inadvertently canceled claim 39. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have set forth a new listing of claims, including new claim 40, which is identical to previously canceled claim 39.

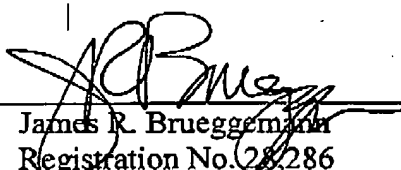
This application should now be in condition for a favorable examination. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the below-indicated telephone number to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-1853.

Date: April 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
James R. Brueggemann  
Registration No. 28,286

333 South Hope Street, 48th Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Telephone: (213) 620-1780  
Facsimile: (213) 620-1398